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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## PRAISE AND BLAME

SIR,—I have read with interest in *THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW* of the present month your article entitled "The Tragedy of Mexico," for which I offer you my congratulations. Really, the attitude of this Administration with regard to Mexico is incomprehensible. The only object which the policy of "watchful waiting" could have had was to wait until one of the parties overpowered the other in order to give the victor the moral support which this Government is so anxious to offer to either of the factions, and not the present policy of placing obstacles to the victorious party out of pure dislike. It could be assured that without the action that has been taken by the State Department, Villa would have been annihilated by this time, or perhaps he might have surrendered.

I have also taken note of the article written by Mr. John Barrett, Director of the Pan-American Union, entitled "Practical Pan-Americanism," and to say the least, I am not in accord with it. In reviewing the victories of Pan-Americanism, Mr. Barrett makes reference to the Conferences held in Niagara Falls during the past year. I fail to see where Mr. Barrett has found the victory, for such would have been the case had the Conference induced the American Government to remove its troops from Vera Cruz. This was the aim of the Conference; it was for this purpose that the good offices of the representatives of the A. B. C. were tendered, to solve the international conflict between the United States and Mexico on account of the landing of American troops in Vera Cruz. The only arrangement under these circumstances would have been to convince this Government of the necessity of respecting the sovereignty of Mexico. While the American marines were in Vera Cruz, a friendly nation was being trampled upon and the relations of two Pan-American countries were severed.

Mr. Barrett also mentions as an example of Pan-Americanism the conferences which have taken place between Secretary Lansing and the representatives of the six most important Latin-American countries. These conferences, as has been clearly seen, have for a purpose to unite the warring factions of Mexico: that is, to meddle in the internal affairs of Mexico.

It is to be regretted that the President of the Pan-American Union should understand Pan-Americanism in the way he does. Frankly speaking, I thought that the purpose of Pan-Americanism was, among other things, to respect the sovereignty of American nations, but I see that Mr. Barrett understands it as the power of two or three American nations to unite and dictate their views to any one of the others.

Yours very sincerely,

O. E. DUPLAN.

WASHINGTON, D. C.